

Appln No. 10/828,635
Amdt date January 16, 2007
Reply to Office action of July 19, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A low friction clothes hanger system for reducing the lateral force required to move a clothes hanger on a supporting clothes hanger rod having an outer surface with an uppermost edge surface, comprising:

a friction reducing element located between a clothes hanger hook of a clothes hanger and a supporting rod, the friction reducing element comprising, a roller on the clothes hanger hook which roller has a preformed concave rolling surface with an apex, which apex rolls generally on the uppermost edge surface of the supporting clothes hanger rod, or a plurality of rollers with rolling surfaces which contact and roll on the supporting clothes hanger rod.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The low friction clothes hanger system of claim [2] 1, wherein the ~~at least one roller element comprises a~~ plurality of rollers comprise a plurality of spaced apart ball bearings.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The low friction clothes hanger system of claim 1, wherein the friction reducing element is integral with the clothes hanger hook.

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7. (Currently amended) The low friction clothes hanger system of claim 1, wherein the friction reducing element is attachable to a hanger hook of a clothes hanger without [a] an integral friction reducing element.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) The low friction clothes hanger system of claim 1, wherein the clothes hanger further comprises a magnet to aid in the lateral displacement of the clothes hanger relative to other hangers with magnets.

14. (Currently amended) The low friction clothes hanger system of claim 1, wherein the clothes hanger further comprises mechanical displacement means that extends laterally from the hanger to aid in the lateral displacement the clothes hanger relative to other clothes hangers.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

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17. (Currently amended) A low friction clothes hanger system for reducing the lateral force required to move a clothes hanger on a supporting clothes hanger rod having an outer surface with an uppermost edge surface, comprising:

a friction reducing element located between a clothes hanger hook of a clothes hanger and a supporting rod, the friction reducing element comprising, a roller on the clothes hanger hook which roller has a preformed concave rolling surface with an apex, which apex rolls generally on the uppermost edge surface of the supporting clothes hanger rod, or a plurality of rollers with rolling surfaces which contact and roll on the supporting clothes hanger rod; and

a lateral displacement means located in the hanger to aid in the lateral displacement the hanger relative to other hangers hanging on the supporting rod.

18. (Currently amended) The low friction clothes hanger system ~~of claim~~ of claim 17, wherein the lateral displacement means is selected from the group consisting of magnet in the clothes hanger to aid in the lateral displacement of the clothes hanger relative to other clothes hangers and mechanical displacement means that extends laterally from the clothes hanger to aid in the lateral displacement of the clothes hanger relative to other clothes hangers.

19. (Currently amended) A method for aiding the alignment of items that are hung on clothes hangers on a supporting clothes hanger rod of claim 1, comprising:

hanging an item on a clothes hanger; and

placing the clothes hanger in contact with the supporting clothes hanger rod then letting go of the clothes hanger, allowing the weight of the item on the clothes hanger to fall to a point of equilibrium.

20. (Currently amended) The method for aiding the alignment of items that are hung on clothes hangers on a rod of claim 19, wherein when a user of the method pushes or brushes two or more clothes hangers facilitating the natural tendency for the friction diminished clothes hangers to space themselves naturally.

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21. (Currently amended) A method for aiding the alignment of items that are hung on clothes hangers on a rod of claim 6, comprising:

hanging an item on a clothes hanger;

placing the clothes hanger in contact with the supporting clothes rod then letting go of the clothes hanger, allowing the weight of the item on the clothes hanger to fall to a point of equilibrium; and

letting a lateral displacement means provide a force to help cause adjacent clothes hangers to adjust their spacing on the clothes rod.

22. (Currently amended) A method for providing a friction reducing feature to the upper curved portion of a clothes hanger hook which is to be hanged on a clothes rod having an outer surface with an uppermost edge surface, comprising:

finding the approximate point at which the upper curved portion of the clothes hanger hook will make contact with the clothes rod; and

attaching a friction reducing means to the upper curved portion so that the friction reducing means will make contact with the clothes rod and carry all or some of the load of the clothes hanger, wherein the friction reducing element is positioned on a clothes hanger hook of a clothes hanger and comprises, a roller having a preformed concave rolling surface with an apex, which apex rolls generally on the uppermost edge surface of the supporting clothes hanger rod, or a plurality of rollers with rolling surfaces which contact and roll on the supporting clothes hanger rod.

23. (Canceled)